

BOERS ARE ITCHING FOR FIGHT. BRITISH ADVANCE TALK.

Women of the Transvaal Tell Their Soldiers to Die Rather Than Be Defeated, the Mobilization of the Burghers Goes on Rapidly, and They Are Awaiting the Word to Open Hostilities—Queen's Government Still Hopes for Peace.

LONDON, Oct. 2.—The cable company officials at the Cape say it is impossible to reach Pretoria over the Durban line.

The Cape Town to Pretoria line is still working, but it is glutted with official messages.

A dispatch from Durban reports that all trains from the Transvaal are arriving twenty-four hours late, having to give place to the Boer military trains.

A special dispatch from Pretoria says that General Jan Smuts will command the Boer forces on the Natal border. Commandant Cronje on the southwestern, and General Schalk Burger on the eastern frontier, while General Malan will be in command at Ixterburg. Altogether there will be nine generals in command of columns.

A complete plan of campaign has been arranged with the Orange Free State.

President Kruger addressed the troops which started for the Natal border on Saturday, appealing to their patriotism and wishing them goodspeed.

Fighting is expected by Wednesday.

It is added that two trains which arrived yesterday evening were packed with the station was besieged by friends of the passengers. The latter said they had endured great hardships and had been subjected to insults by the Boers.

The dispatch, continuing, says that the excitement is increasing at Durban. The streets are thronged with animated crowds and the impression prevails that the Boers may commence hostilities to-day.

Altogether over 1,000 Natal volunteers have gone to the front.

Trains from Lourenço Marques, Delagoa Bay, are bringing enormous crowds, principally miners. A Boer commando arrived at the home town on the Agency river at the home town of the Agency.

Boers Not Begging for Peace.

There is nothing whatever to indicate that the authorities at Pretoria have the slightest desire to come to terms peacefully with Great Britain.

Had the Boers not determined to fight it out, or if they were not prepared for hostilities, they would, it is thought, have sent some temporizing reply to Great Britain's despatch.

Advices received from Ladysmith, Natal, this morning, say that 600 burghers have assembled at Albertina, in the Orange Free State, with the object of proceeding in the direction of the border, and that it is feared a raid on Ladysmith is meditated.

Reports from Cape Town declare that an immediate rupture of the diplomatic relations between Great Britain and the Transvaal is expected.

The South African News, a semi-official paper, announces a special train has been left to bring Mr. Conyngham Greene, the British Diplomatic Agent at Pretoria, and his staff, it adds, that the formal hauling down of the British flag on the Agency building at Pretoria is imminent. Later news, however, tend to discredit this report.

The general drift of news indicates that the position of the British troops in South Africa is critical owing to the delay in sending reinforcements, and in the event of hostilities, early reverses are regarded as probable.

Mobilization is Rapid.

The latest advices show that the Transvaal mobilization has been rapid and comprehensive. Many Boers, it is said, did not wait to be commanded, but proceeded to the border spontaneously.

The members of the Executive, State Secretaries, President Kruger's relatives, members of the House of Representatives, and other professional men are all eagerly giving their services, and the women are bidding the men folks die rather than return beaten.

It is calculated that the Orange Free State already has seven thousand men on the border.

Great excitement prevails at Cape Town, where it is reported that the Boers have occupied Laing's Nek.

The British at Cape Town express great satisfaction at the fact that matters have reached a stage when a definite settlement of the difficulties is inevitable.

Artillery at Volksrust.

Advices from Cape Town say a dispatch received there to-day from Christown, Natal, announce that eighty members of the Orange Free State Artillery, with six guns, have arrived at Volksrust, a point in the Transvaal close to the Natal border, and that a magazine has been erected by the hospital authorities.

The officials at Christown have received a telegram from the Colonial Secretary in answer to an inquiry, instructing them to remain absolutely still and offer no resistance.

No women have been left in Volksrust, and the natives are leaving Christown. The officials still remain, but are ready to leave at a moment's notice.

General Joubert, the Vice-President of the South African Republic and Commander-in-chief of the Transvaal forces, has arrived at Volksrust, and his presence there will probably have a calming effect.

The advices from Johannesburg say no commencing took place there Saturday. They add that many of the Boers are anxious to leave and that many of the young men are forming corps of civilian police and are acting in conjunction with the Merchants' Association. The town is quiet.

The Merchants' Committee announces that British subjects, under a penalty, will be allowed to remain and that consular letters and passports will be accepted if the persons presenting them are of good character.

BRITAIN NOW SEEMS LESS EAGER FOR WAR.

LONDON, Oct. 2.—The announced intention of the British Cabinet to meet to-morrow has, apparently, been reconsidered. It is now said that the meeting depends largely on the developments in the Transvaal.

The date for summoning Parliament has not been definitely settled, though it is expected to be about Oct. 10. Queen Victoria will hold a Privy Council at Balmoral, Scotland, at an early date, when the necessary proclamation will be signed.

All the holding back seems to be on Great Britain's side, where, in spite of the newspaper and War Office talk of the mobilization of an army corps the work is apparently proceeding in a curiously leisurely manner.

The departure of Gen. Sir Redvers Buller, the commander of the British forces in South Africa, has been postponed from day to day, the latest announcement being that he will sail for the Cape either Friday or Saturday next.

When the members of the Cabinet talk in public their assurances of Great Britain's good-will toward the Transvaal are regarded as almost smacking of pathetic appeals for peace.

The Duke of Devonshire, Lord President of the Council, in his reply to a toast to his health at a public luncheon of the Manchester Technical School Saturday afternoon, was careful in referring to the Transvaal situation to announce that the Cabinet's new proposals were moderate, and his whole speech seemed to indicate that the British Government was framing its despatch so as to invite a continuance of the negotiations.

Calling Out Reserves a Hoax.

It now appears that the alleged calling out of the First Class Army Reserves was a hoax. The circulars were issued on official paper, and many members of the reserve presented themselves at the barracks only to find that the order was a forgery. The police now have the matter in their hands.

No expedition was allowed in the event of Government orders to-day. Mr. Chamberlain and the Earl of Selborne were absent from the Colonial Office, but Lord Lansdowne, General Lord Wolseley and General Sir Evelyn Wood were busily engaged at the War Office.

General Sir Redvers Buller called at the War Office this afternoon and a special meeting was held. Naturally, nothing of the discussion was made public, but it is understood that General Sir Redvers Buller will not proceed for the Cape until next week, except in case of unforeseen developments.

Parliament Is Not Unanimous.

Many members of Parliament are returning to town in anticipation of an early summoning of the houses of Parliament. It is the general impression that, although some speakers may express disapproval of the Government policy, few will go to the extreme of voting against the required credit. It is considered more probable that they will abstain from participating in a division.

Sir William Vernon Harcourt, the Liberal leader, in a speech at Tredgar said:

"The first and last word of these gold hunters is war, in order to lead to annexation. A correspondent wrote to Lord Salisbury asking if it were not true that the Government would make every effort to avert war and had no desire to annex the Transvaal if a settlement could be obtained peacefully."

"Lord Salisbury replied, answering affirmatively."

The Duke of Argyll, in reply to an inquiry as to what he thought of Sir William Vernon Harcourt's words, said they were pure party clapnet, adding:

"I respect for a petty state which invites, rises by means of and depends upon the labor and brains of strangers and then repudiates the common rights of humanity and condemns them to an intolerable life of serfdom."

Reports from various arsenals and garisons in Great Britain testify to the active continuance of military preparations. The reserves have received preliminary notices to be prepared, and several regiments have been notified to hold themselves in readiness for active service.

An advertisement appeared this morning announcing the formation of a corps of gentlemen rough riders, patterned after Roosevelt's Rough Riders, for service in South Africa.

The British Government is chartering a large number of steamers, evidently for the purpose of transporting an army corps. About forty vessels are to be chartered, and the steamers Pavonia, of the Cunard Line, and Bavaria, of the Allan Line, are among those already taken.

Spanish Interests Involved.

Madrid, Oct. 2.—El Liberal to-day declares that Spain cannot remain indifferent to the events transpiring in the Transvaal, in view of the existence of the Anglo-Portuguese treaty by the terms of which, in the event of Great Britain becoming engaged in a war with another power, Portugal is obliged to mobilize 100,000 men and allow Great Britain to use her forts and arsenals.

El Liberal follows up this assertion with the statement that a secret convention also exists that Portugal will cede Great Britain Lourenço Marques, on the north side of Delagoa Bay, and Mozambique, on the east coast of Africa, and calls on the Government to take discreet measures in the interest of Spain.

Stockholm, Sweden, Oct. 2.—The buoy marked "Andree Polar Expedition," which, with an anchor attached, was found on September 9 on the north coast of King Charles Island by the master of the Norwegian cutter Martha Larsen, was opened yesterday in the presence of a number of experts and members of the Cabinet.

Andree's Silent Voyage.

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